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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

Claims 48 and 51-61 are pending.

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that the rejection of claims 48 and 51-61 of the present application is improper for at least the following reasons.

Applicant notes that the Office makes the following statement in the Office Action:

"Regarding Applicant's claim amendments, note again that Copenhaver's apparatus encodes, i.e., prints MICR characters on each check, effectively assigning an "entry number" to each said check."
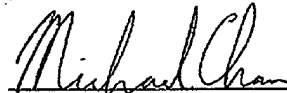
Applicant would like to point out that the specification of the present application provides a clear definition of "entry" and "entry number" (see at least page 2, lines 1-11; page 4, lines 20-24; and page 8, line 27 to page 9, line 1 of the specification). Moreover, an entry number is assigned to each pocket before any document is processed (see page 9, line 9-17 of the specification). Since the entry number is assigned before any document is processed, the entry number cannot be encoded MICR characters on each check, as the Office would like to suggest. This is because MICR characters are encoded on each check only after the check has been initially processed through the image capture transport and then through the encoding transport. In fact, it is clear from the claim language of each of claims 48 and 51-61 of the present application that the entry number is assigned to each check before the check is even processed through the image capture transport. Thus, the entry number as recited in each of claims 48 and 51-61 cannot be encoded MICR characters on each check, as the Office would like to suggest in the above statement made by the Office.

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If the Office continues to reject claims 48 and 51-61 of the present application, it is respectfully requested that the Office explain how an entry number which is assigned to each check before the check is processed through the image capture transport (as recited in each of claims 48 and 51-61) could possibly read on MICR characters which are encoded on a check only after the check has been processed through the image capture transport and is being processed through the encoding transport. Absent an adequate explanation, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 48 and 51-61 of the present application is improper and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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